and within the area round them demarcated by white pillars. Any murder or loot in these areas is regarded as an offence against Government. Murderers of Beduins, subjects, soldiers, or slaves, are liable to death in these areas, and apart from restoration of loot, thieves are liable to imprisonment, deportation, or amputation of the hand.[1] If an individual contracts debts with any of the subjects of Government and absconds, the Government arrests any available member of his tribe and forces him to pay the debt. Routes between Qu'aiti towns are also sacrosanct and carriers may not be made the targets of blood feuds on them. The Qu'aiti is enabled to enforce these measures by his control of the ports and important markets.

Government Finance.

The financial year coincides with the Muhammadan year, i.e., it begins with the 1st Muharram and ends with the 29th Dhu'l Hijja. The year 1353 began on the 16th April 1934, and this report must be taken to cover the period up to the 29th Dhu'l Hijja 1352, i.e., 15th April 1934.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The annual Qu'aiti revenue at present is stated in the annual Aden Administration Report to be Rs.12,50,000 but it appears to me that seven lakhs is a more probable if rather conservative figure. It is based on figures given for Mukalla, Gheil ba Wazir and Shihr (Rs.6,30,000), and on other figures given for the Du'an province and for Shibam. I have no figures for the Hajr province which includes the rich Meifa lands. The excess of revenue over expenditure is said to be about one third.

The expenditure on all public services, except His Highness the Sultan, is said to be Rs.3,00,000 *per annum* in Mukalla and Shihr. His late Highness drew officially Rs.72,000 *per annum* but, I was told, "no one knows what he really spends". The following are some of the principal items of expenditure :—

Defence. Mukalla only, soldiers and slaves.	Rs.2,04,000 *per annum*. The total is perhaps Rs.2,25,000.
Tribal subsidies	Rs.12,000 *per annum* (formerly Rs.36,000 to 48,000 *per annum*).
Education	Rs.6,000.
Medical and Public Health ...	Rs.5,500.
Customs	Rs.10,000.
Du'an province	$21,000.
Shibam	more than $12,000.

[1] I am told that, as in certain other parts of the Protectorate, this Qu...nse penalty is no longer enforced.

[In the Qu'aiti free towns -- Analyst]